

**An Analysis of Reported Index Crime in Oregon
1975-2001**

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Foreword

The Office of Economic Analysis (OEA) issues forecasts of Oregon's adult and juvenile corrections populations twice annually. In the process, OEA works with Oregon crime and arrest data from 1975 to present.

Most discussions of crime rate focus on very recent history – for example, the latest year's data compared to the preceding year. The purpose of this report is to convey a longer historical view. We compare Oregon to the nation over 27 years, compare crime rates among Oregon's regions, and compare Oregon to neighboring states. This publication is updated annually as new data become available.

The source for all statewide crime data in this paper through 1999 is the FBI UCR series on the BJS web site: <http://149.101.22.40/dataonline/index.cfm>. For 2000 and 2001, the source is the FBI's Crime in the United States 2001, Crime Index Offenses Reported, Table 4, pp. 66-75.

For county data, the source is the FBI UCR series as reported in the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD>. These data are available from 1977 through 2000.

OEA would like to acknowledge the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, Portland Police Bureau, Eugene Police Department, Law Enforcement Data System, and our own forecasting advisory committees for their critique of this document.

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
1. Introduction	3
2. Limitations.....	4
3. Total Index Crime	5
4. Violent Index Crime	6
a. Murder.....	8
b. Rape	9
c. Robbery.....	10
d. Aggravated Assault.....	11
e. Conclusion	12
5. Property Index Crime.....	13
a. Burglary.....	15
b. Larceny-Theft	17
c. Motor Vehicle Theft.....	18
d. Conclusion	18
6. Oregon’s Ranking Among the States 1975-2001.....	19
7. Crime in Oregon’s Geographic Regions	20
Appendix: Index Crime Definitions.....	22

Executive Summary

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) maintains an index of reported crime as part of its Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) series. The series began in 1930. Index crimes consist of the violent crimes of murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault; and the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. These crimes were chosen for the index because they were considered the most serious and most consistently reported in all states. This document compares all of these crimes except arson¹. All crime rates in this report are per 100,000 population.

Reported Crime vs. All Crime

The index of reported crime has many limitations, but it has been the most widely used measure of crime for more than 70 years. One major limitation is that reported crime is not a measure of all crime. Many crimes go unreported. Some crimes are reported more frequently than others, and some places experience a higher degree of reporting than others. The degree to which citizens report crime in a jurisdiction may change from year to year, giving the appearance that the crime rate is changing when, in fact, the reporting rate is changing. Factors that can affect reporting are citizen confidence in the criminal justice system, the relationship between the victim and the suspect, changes in police policies, media coverage, and the type of crime. An annual survey conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics indicated that more than half of all crimes went unreported in 2001.

Total Index Crime

- Total index crime typically consists of 90 percent property crimes and 10 percent violent crimes.
- Oregon's total index crime rate is usually higher than the nation's due to Oregon's high property crime rate. Oregon's violent crime rate is typically below the national average.
- Oregon had the nation's ninth highest total index crime rate in 2001.
- The nation's total index crime rate declined consistently from 1992 through 2000. The nation's index crime rose slightly in 2001, the first increase in ten years. Still, it remained at the lowest levels of the 27-year period.
- Oregon's total index crime rate has been more volatile than the nation's. Oregon's rate has declined 4 of the last 6 years covered in this report. Since 1999, it has been at the lowest levels of the 27-year period.

¹ Arson was added to the index in 1979. Arsons are relatively infrequent, and they are omitted here for continuity.

Violent Index Crime

- Aggravated assault and robbery comprise most of the violent index crimes reported in both Oregon and the nation.
- Violent index crime comprised 12 percent of the nation's total index crime in 2001. It comprised 6 percent of Oregon's total index crime in 2001.
- Oregon's violent index crime rate is typically below the nation's. In 2001, Oregon ranked 34th among the states for its rate of violent index crime. Rape is the only violent index crime for which Oregon's rate is typically higher than the nation's.
- The nation experienced a substantial increase in the violent crime rate between the mid-1980s and early 1990s.
- Oregon did not follow the national trend during the mid-1980s and early 1990s. Oregon's violent crime rate decreased, then stabilized during the time that the nation was experiencing a violent crime "boom."
- The national rate has been falling since 1992. Oregon's rate followed beginning in 1996. The national rate changed little in 2001, while Oregon's rate substantially declined.
- Since 1998, Oregon's rate has been lower than at any time since 1975.

Property Index Crime

- Larceny-theft and burglary comprise most of the property index crimes reported in both Oregon and the nation.
- Index property crime comprised 88 percent of the nation's total index crime in 2001. It comprised 94 percent of Oregon's total index crime in 2001.
- Oregon's property index crime rate is consistently above the nation's. Oregon's property index crime rate was the nation's fifth highest in 2001. This is due to Oregon's high rate of reported larceny/theft.
- The nation's property index crime rate declined from 1992 to 2000. The rate increased in 2001 for the first time in a decade.
- Oregon's rate declined four of the last six years. Oregon's rate increased in 2001.
- Even though Oregon's and the nation's rates increased in 2001, they were still near their lowest levels of the past 27 years.

- Oregon's high property index crime rate could be partly due to a higher reporting rate.

Oregon's Historical Ranking

- Oregon had one of the ten highest index crime rates in the nation for 21 of the 27 years covered in this report. The larceny-theft rate has been a driving factor in each of those years. Oregon had one of the nation's ten highest larceny-theft rates in every year since 1975, with the exception of 1990 and 1991.
- In some years, high rates for other property crimes also boosted Oregon's overall ranking. Oregon's burglary rate was among the ten highest in the nation every year from 1975 through 1989 except for 1980, when Oregon ranked eleventh. In 1994 and 1995, Oregon's motor vehicle theft rates were the seventh and sixth highest in the nation, respectively.

Index Crime in Oregon's Geographic Regions

- The Portland Metro area's violent index crime rate is typically two to three times higher than in other areas of Oregon.
- The Portland Metro area had a far higher property index crime rate than the rest of Oregon until 1990. In 2000, the rate in the Willamette Valley was equal to the rate in the Portland area.

1. Introduction

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) maintains an index of reported crime as part of its Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) series. The series began in 1930. Index crimes consist of the violent crimes of murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault; and the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. These crimes were chosen for the index because they were considered the most serious and most consistently reported in all states. This document compares all of these crimes except arson.^{2 3}

This document shows Oregon's index crime rates from 1975 to 2001. Oregon's rates for the various index crimes are compared to the nation and to neighboring states. The rates of geographic regions within Oregon are compared. The report includes a discussion of the limitations of reported crime data and offers explanations for some crime trends. All rates in this report are per 100,000 population.

² Arson was added to the index in 1979. Arsons are relatively infrequent, and they are omitted here for continuity.

³ Definitions of the index crimes appear in the appendix.

2. Limitations

Reported Crime vs. All Crime

The index of reported crime has many limitations, but it has been the most widely used measure of crime for more than 70 years. One major limitation is that reported crime is not a measure of all crime. Many crimes go unreported. Some crimes are reported more frequently than others, and some places experience a higher degree of reporting than others. A higher rate of reported crime in one place compared to another does not always mean the former has more crime than the latter. It simply means that more crime was *reported* in the former than the latter. The degree to which citizens report crime in a jurisdiction may change from year to year, giving the appearance that the crime rate is changing when, in fact, the reporting rate is changing. Factors that can affect the degree of reporting are citizen confidence in the criminal justice system, the relationship between the victim and the suspect, changes in police policies, media coverage, and the type of crime.

The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics has published the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) every year since 1973. Among other things, the NCVS measures the degree to which various crimes are reported. Table 1 shows the percentages for 2001. The crimes roughly correspond to UCR index crimes. According to the NCVS, about half of violent crimes and more than 60 percent of property crimes went unreported in 2001.

Administrative Error

Another potential source of error is incomplete or incorrect reporting by law enforcement agencies. For several reasons, some agencies can report data for only part of a year. In these cases, the FBI estimates, or “imputes,” the missing data. Sometimes agencies may not report crimes correctly. For example, UCR covers aggravated and simple assault. Some simple assaults may be coded as aggravated, and vice versa.

Table 1: National Crime Victimization Survey

Percent of Victimization
Reported to Police – 2001

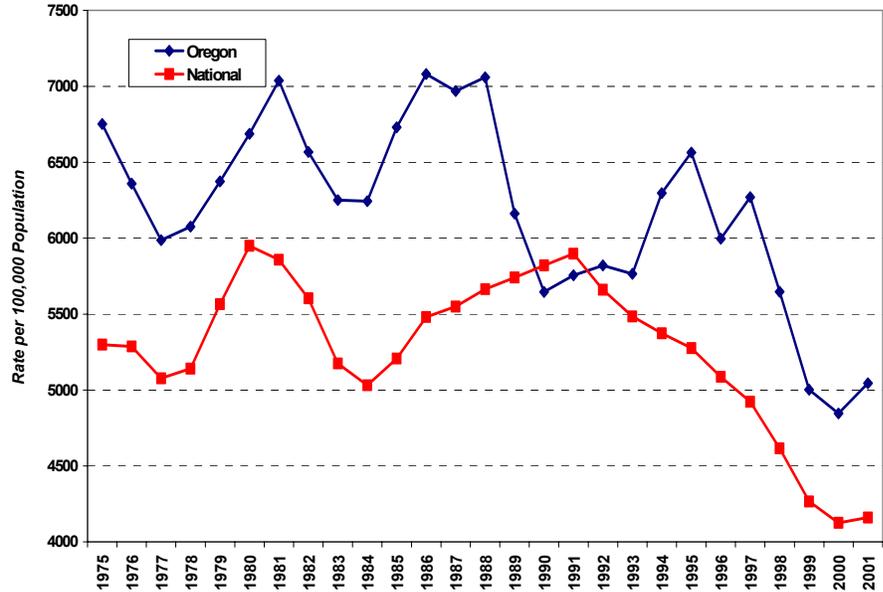
Violent Crime	49.4%
Rape/Sexual Assault	38.6%
Robbery	60.5%
Aggravated Assault	59.2%
Property Crime	37.0%
Burglary	53.7%
Theft	30.1%
Motor Vehicle Theft	81.6%

Source: Criminal Victimization 2001: Changes 2000-01 with Trends 1993-2001, U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, September 2002, p. 10.

3. Total Index Crime

Property crimes make up the majority of reported index crimes, comprising nearly 90 percent of the nation's total in 2001. Figure 1 shows that Oregon's index crime rate was nearly always above the nation's during the period 1975-2001. Prior to 1988, Oregon's rate mirrored the national trend. The national rate declined from 1992 through 2000. In 2001, the nation's index crime rate

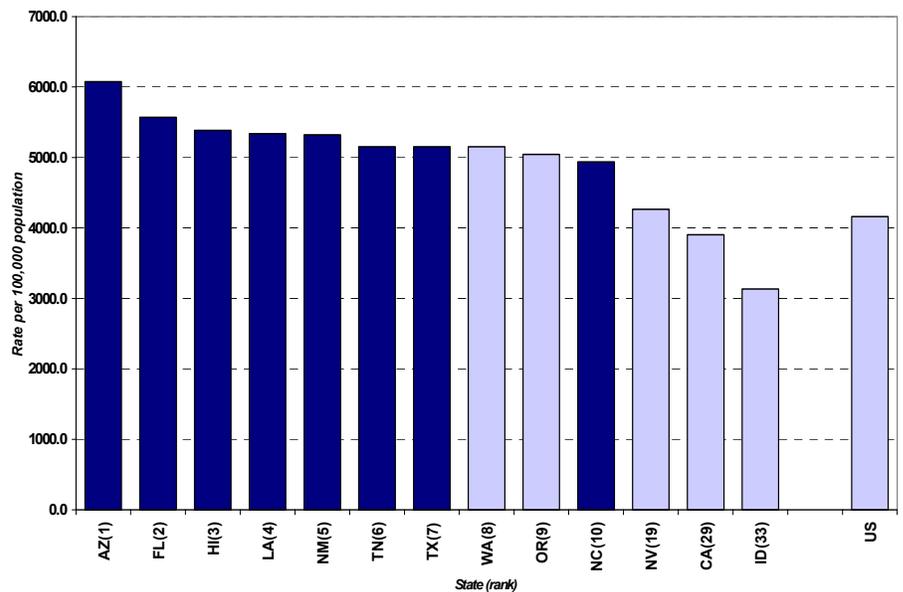
Figure 1: Total Index Crime Rates



increased for the first time in ten years. Still, it remained at the lowest levels of the 27-year period. Oregon's latest period of uninterrupted decline lasted three years, from 1998 to 2000. Oregon's rate also increased in 2001, but it remains near the lowest levels of the 27-year period.

Figure 2 shows that Oregon had the nation's ninth highest index crime rate in 2001. Washington was the only neighboring state with a higher rate.

**Figure 2: Total Index Crime Rates, 2001
Top 10 States, Oregon and its Neighbors**



Oregon's high index crime rate is driven by property crimes. Oregon's property index crime rate was the nation's fifth highest in 2001. Oregon's violent index crime rate is typically below the nation's.

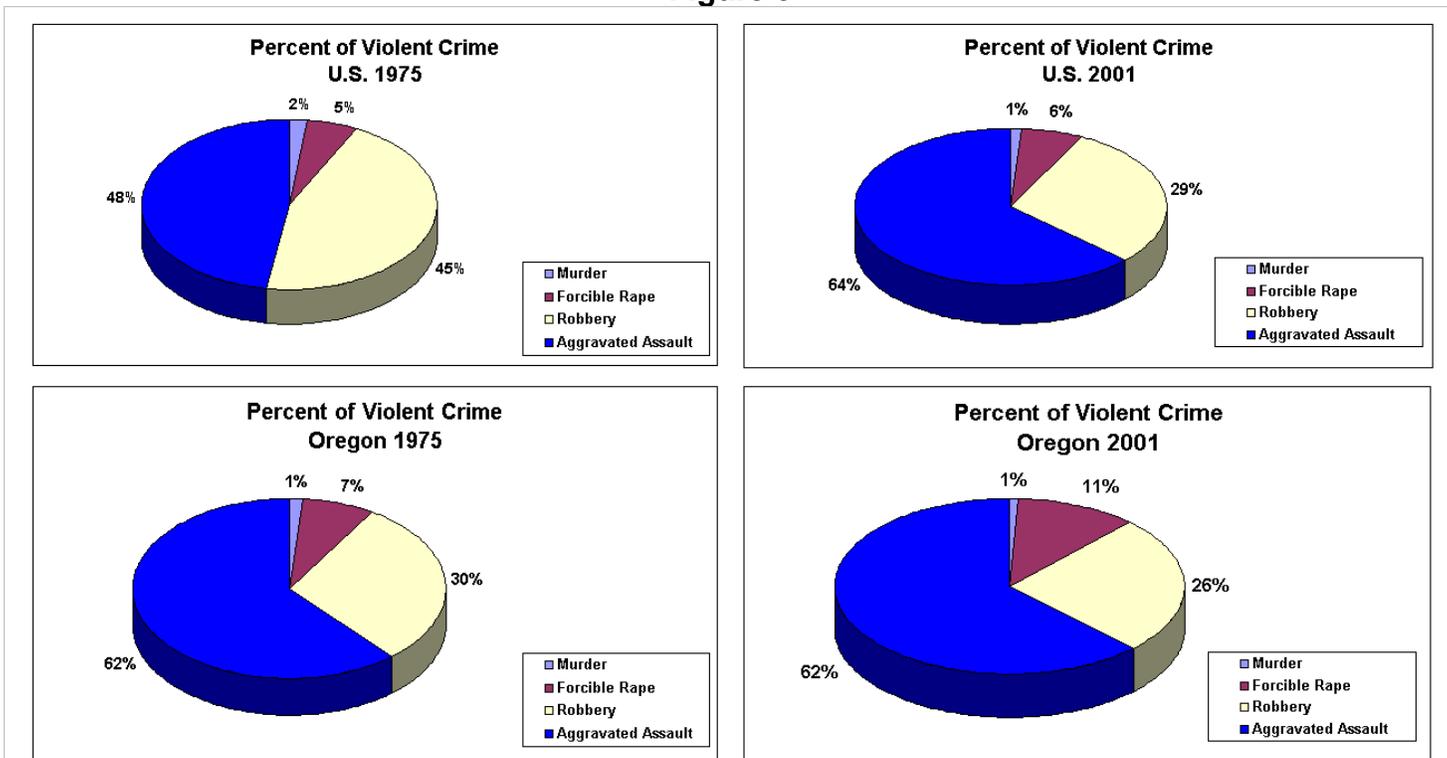
Lighter shaded bars indicate Oregon & neighboring states

4. Violent Index Crime

Violent index crimes are murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.⁴ Violent crime comprised 9 percent of the nation's reported index crime in 1975. Its share grew to 12 percent by 2001. In Oregon, violent crime makes up a relatively smaller portion of total index crime. Violent crime comprised 6.5 percent of Oregon's total index crime in 1975. Through the 1980s and 1990s, it comprised an average of 7.9 percent. In 2001, violent crime comprised 6.1 percent of Oregon's total index crime.

Figure 3 shows the composition of U.S. and Oregon violent index crime in 1975 and 2001.

Figure 3



Nationwide, assault makes up the largest portion of violent index crime. Assault's share grew from 48 to 64 percent of all violent index crime between 1975 and 2001. Robbery's share fell from 45 to 29 percent during the same period. Little change occurred in the shares of murder and rape.

Assault also comprises the largest portion of Oregon's violent index crime. Assault's share of Oregon's violent crime has gone through periods of increase and decrease, but its 2001 share was unchanged from 1975. As of 2001, the main difference between Oregon and the nation was in the share of robberies

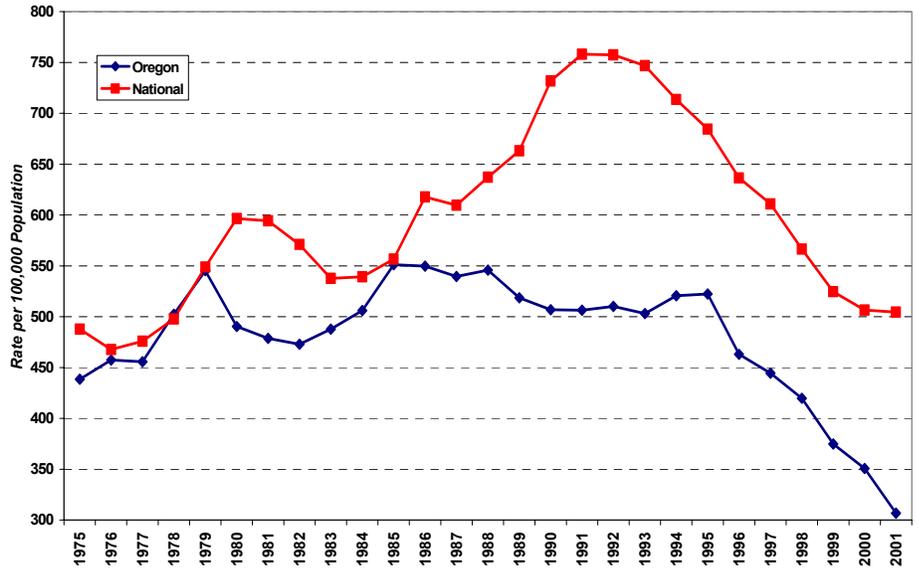
⁴ Definitions of these crimes appear in the appendix.

and rapes. Oregon has relatively fewer robberies and relatively more reported rapes than the nation as a whole.

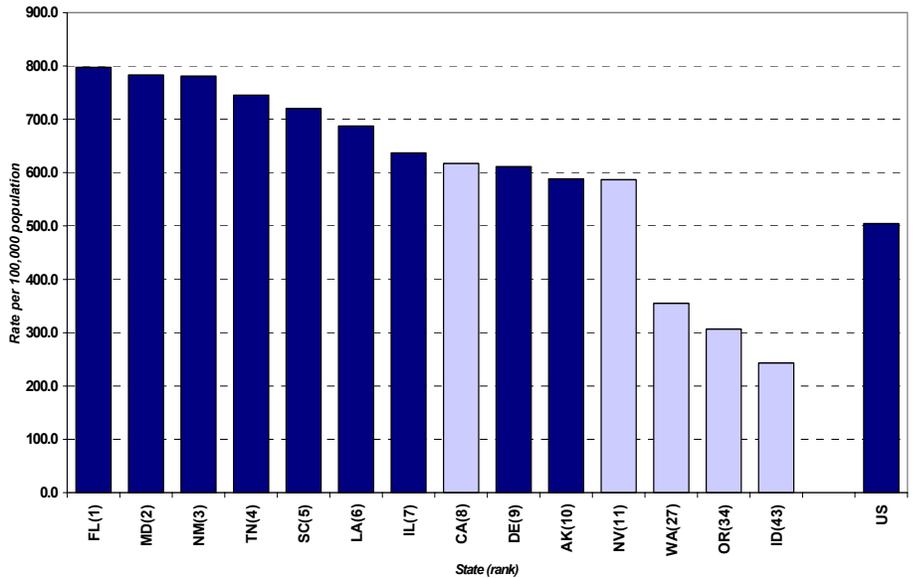
Figure 4 shows that Oregon's violent index crime rate is typically below the nation's. While the nation had a large increase in violent index crime between 1986 and 1991, Oregon's rate fell slightly, then stabilized. The nation's rate has been falling since 1992. Oregon's rate followed beginning in 1996. Since 1998, Oregon's rate has been lower than at any time since 1975. The national rate changed little in 2001, while Oregon's rate substantially declined.

Figure 5 compares Oregon's violent index crime rate with other states'. In 2001, California had the eighth highest rate in the nation, and Nevada had the eleventh highest. Oregon's, Washington's, and Idaho's rates were below the national average.

Figure 4: Violent Index Crime Rates



**Figure 5: Violent Index Crime Rates, 2001
Top 10 States, Oregon and its Neighbors**



a. Murder

Murder typically accounts for one to two percent of violent index crime. Figure 6 shows that the national murder rate hovered around a stable mean until 1994, when a seven-year decline began. The nation's murder rate increased slightly in 2001, but it still remains near the lowest levels of the 27-year period.

Figure 6: Murder Rates

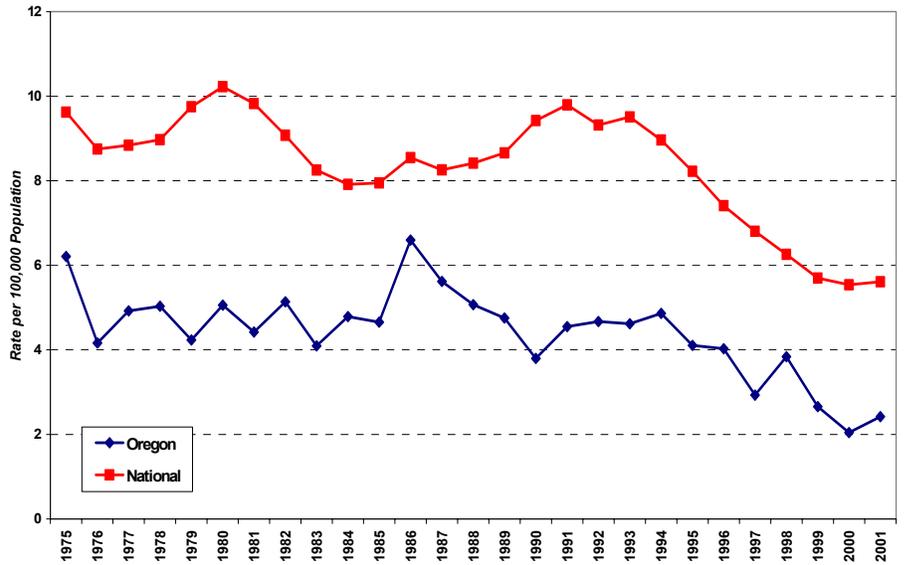
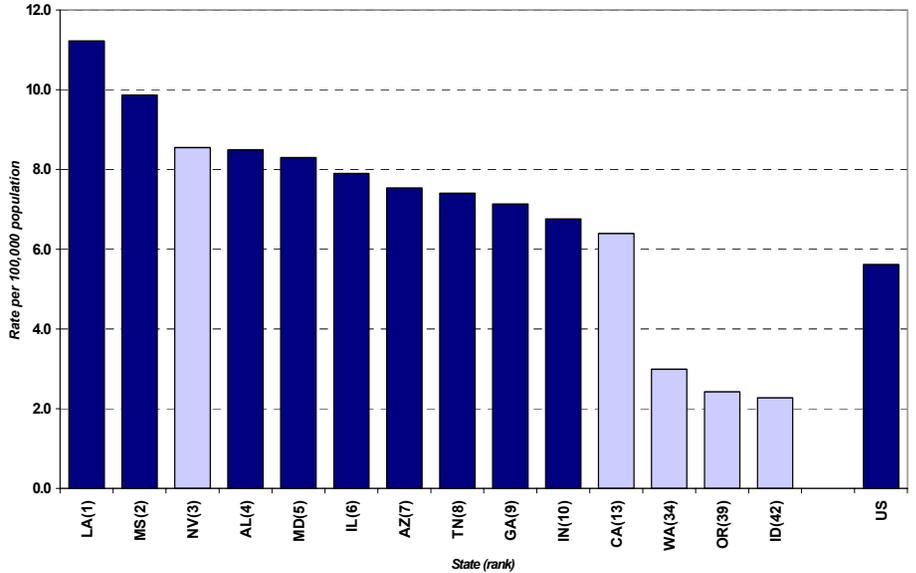


Figure 7 compares Oregon's rate with other states'. In 2001, Nevada's murder rate was the nation's third highest. California was the only other neighbor to rank above the national average. Oregon's, Washington's, and Idaho's rates were forty to fifty percent below the national average.

**Figure 7: Murder Rates, 2001
Top 10 States, Oregon and its Neighbors**

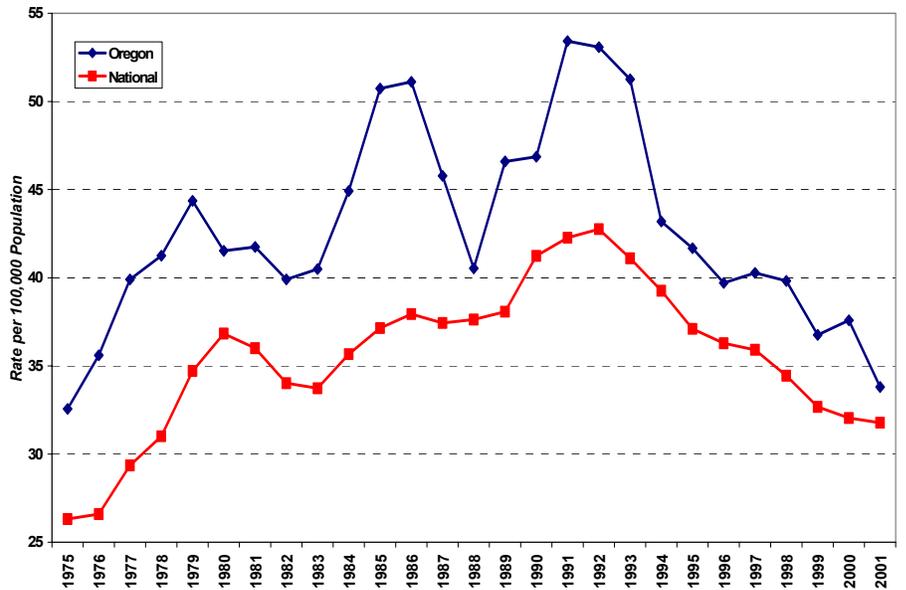


b. Rape

Rape typically accounts for 5 to 6 percent of the nation's violent index crime. In Oregon, rape accounted for 11 percent of violent index crime reported in 2001.

Figure 8 shows that Oregon's rate trends with the nation's, but at a higher level. The rape rates in Oregon and the nation have been declining since the early 1990s.

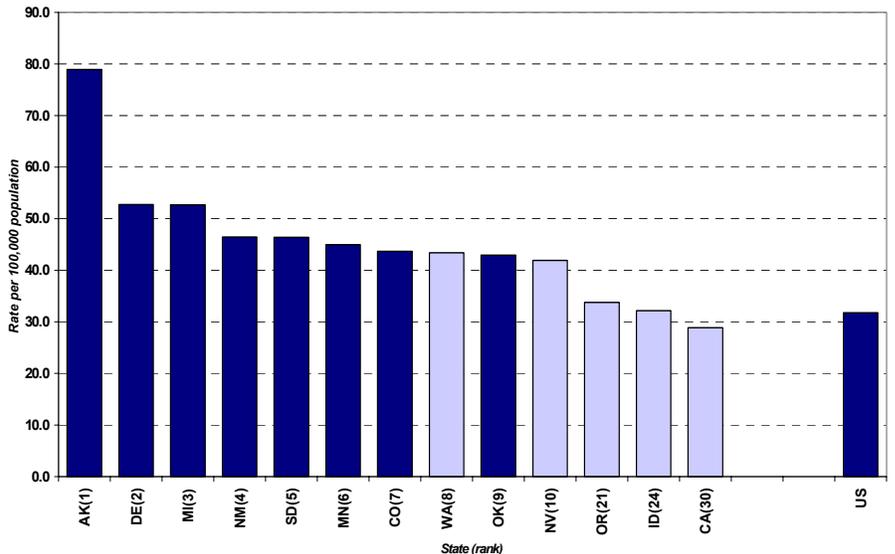
Figure 8: Rape Rates



As noted in Table 1 on page 4, rape is one of the most underreported crimes. Oregon's higher rate may be due to greater willingness of victims to report the crime than is typical in other parts of the nation.

Figure 9 compares Oregon's rate to other states'. In 2001, Washington had the eighth highest and Nevada had the tenth highest reported rape rates in the nation. Oregon, California and Idaho were near the national average.

**Figure 9: Rape Rates, 2001
Top 10 States, Oregon and its Neighbors**



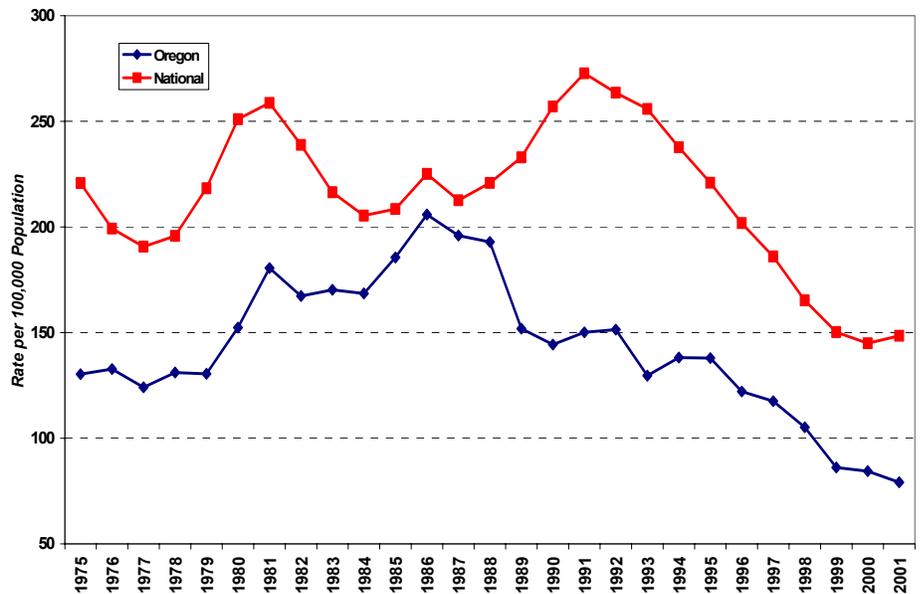
c. Robbery

Robbery accounted for 29 percent of the nation's violent index crime in 2001, down from 45 percent in 1975. In Oregon, robbery accounted for 26 percent of all violent index crime in 2001, down from 30 percent in 1975.

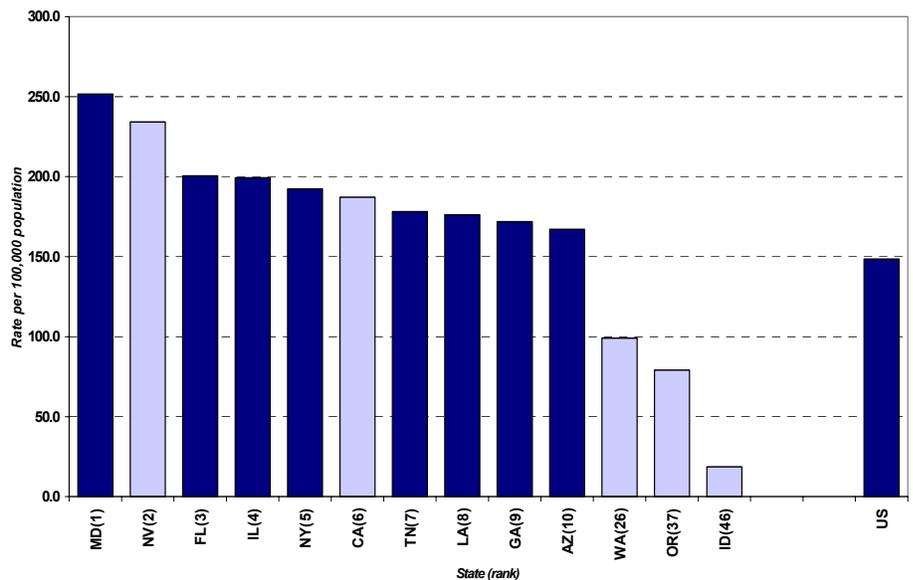
Figure 10 shows that Oregon's robbery rate was below the nation's for the entire period. While the nation's rate rose sharply in the early 1990s, Oregon's declined. Oregon's 2001 rate was 62 percent below its 1986 peak. The nation's 2001 rate was 45.5 percent below its 1991 peak. Both rates were at or near their lowest levels in the 27-year period. The national rate increased slightly in 2001, the first increase in ten years.

Figure 11 compares Oregon's rate to other states'. In 2001, Nevada had the second highest and California the sixth highest robbery rates in the nation. Oregon, Washington, and Idaho were substantially below the national average.

Figure 10: Robbery Rates



**Figure 11: Robbery Rates, 2001
Top 10 States, Oregon and its Neighbors**



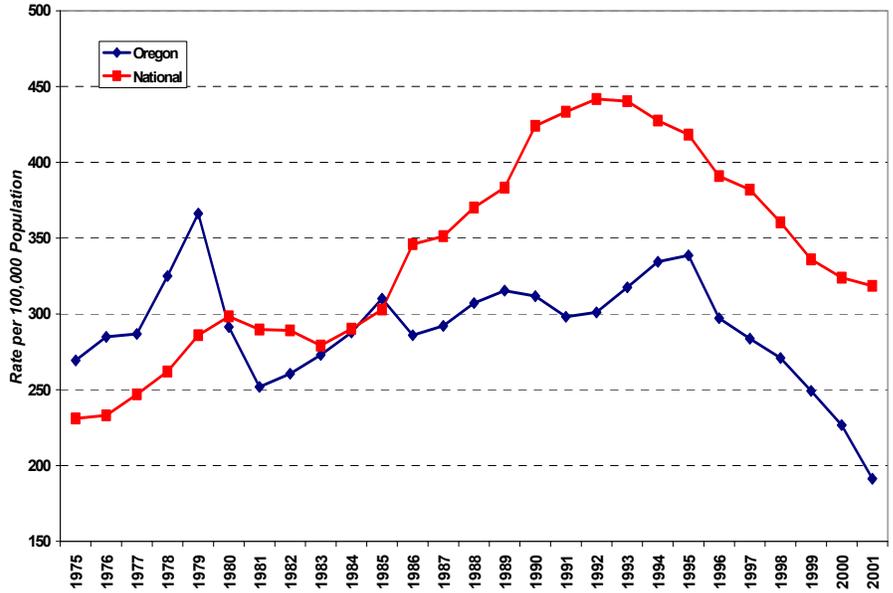
d. Aggravated Assault

Assault makes up the largest portion of reported violent index crime. As noted in Figure 3 on page 6, its share of the nation's violent index crime has grown since 1975 while robbery's share has declined. In Oregon, aggravated assault's share of violent index crimes was the same in 2001 as in 1975.

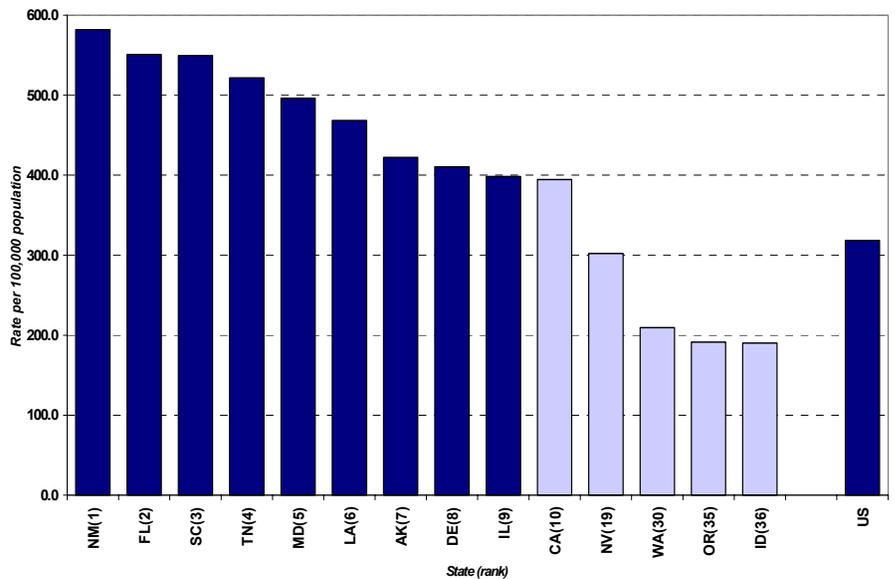
Figure 12 shows that Oregon's assault rate has been substantially below the nation's since the mid-1980s. In the early 1990s, Oregon experienced an increase in the assault rate when the nation's rate was falling. Oregon has followed the national decline since 1996.

Figure 13 compares Oregon's assault rate to other states'. In 2001, California ranked tenth among the states. Oregon and its other neighboring states were below the national average.

Figure 12: Aggravated Assault Rates



**Figure 13: Aggravated Assault Rates, 2001
Top 10 States, Oregon and its Neighbors**



e. Conclusion

Aggravated assault and robbery are the most commonly reported violent crimes in both Oregon and the nation. The nation experienced major increases in the reported rate for these crimes between the mid-1980s and early 1990s. These increases pushed up the violent index crime rate during the period. The nation's violent crime rate fell every year between 1992 and 2000, again largely due to decreases in robbery and assault rates.

Oregon did not follow the national trend. Between 1985 and 1991, Oregon's robbery and murder rates declined. This caused the state's overall violent crime rate to decrease, then stabilize during the time that the nation was experiencing a violent crime "boom."

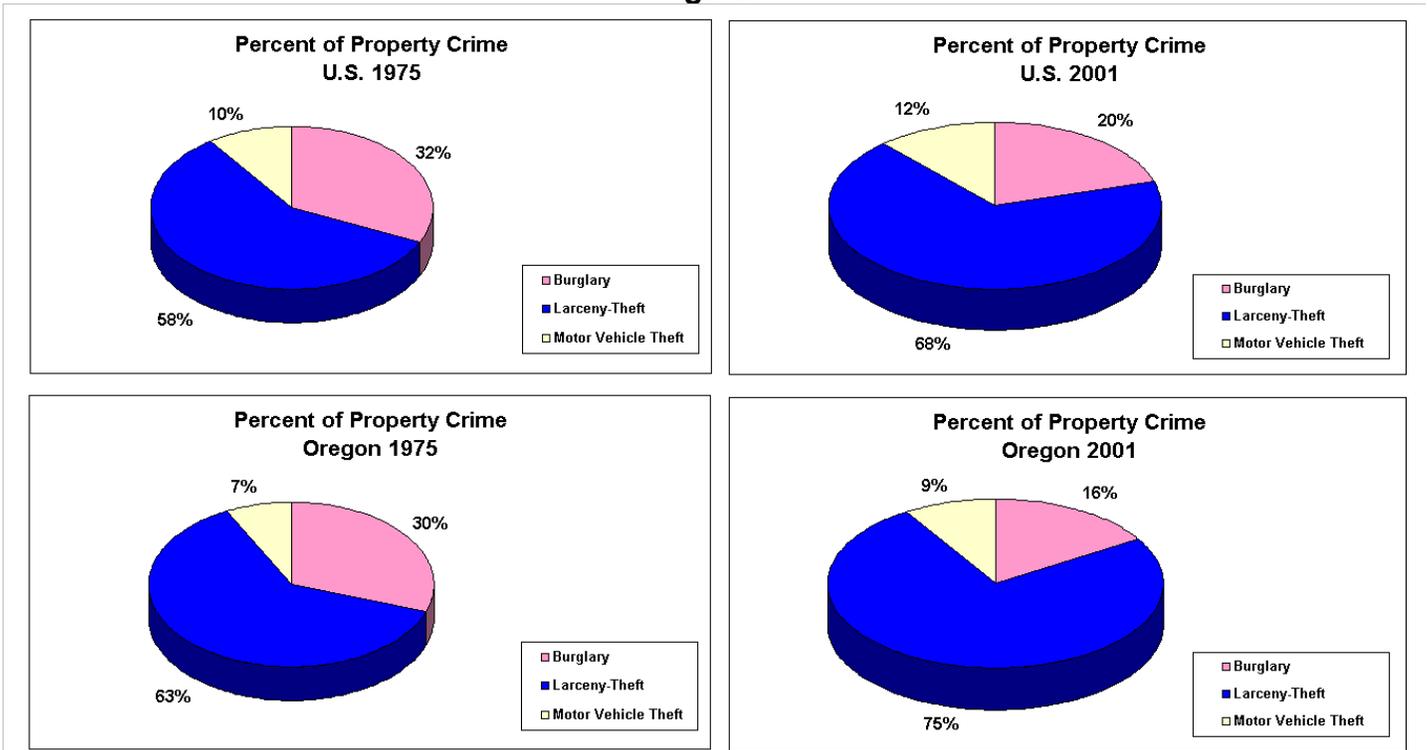
In 2001, all components of the violent crime index declined in Oregon, leading to a substantial drop in the state's violent crime rate. This contrasts with the nation as a whole. Increases in the national murder and robbery rates combined with slight decreases in rape and assault to leave the nation's violent crime rate virtually unchanged from 2000.

5. Property Index Crime

The index property crimes discussed here consist of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.^{5 6} These property crimes comprised 91 percent of all index crime in 1975 and 88 percent in 2001. In Oregon, property crime makes up a relatively larger share of total index crime. Property crime comprised 93.5 percent of Oregon's total index crime in 1975 and 93.9 percent in 2001.

Figure 14 shows the composition of U.S. and Oregon property index crime in 1975 and 2001.

Figure 14



Nationwide, larceny-theft makes up the largest portion of property index crime and of *all* index crime. Larceny's share grew between 1975 and 2001 from 58 to 68 percent of all property index crime. Burglary's share fell from 32 to 20 percent during the same period. Little change occurred in motor vehicle theft.

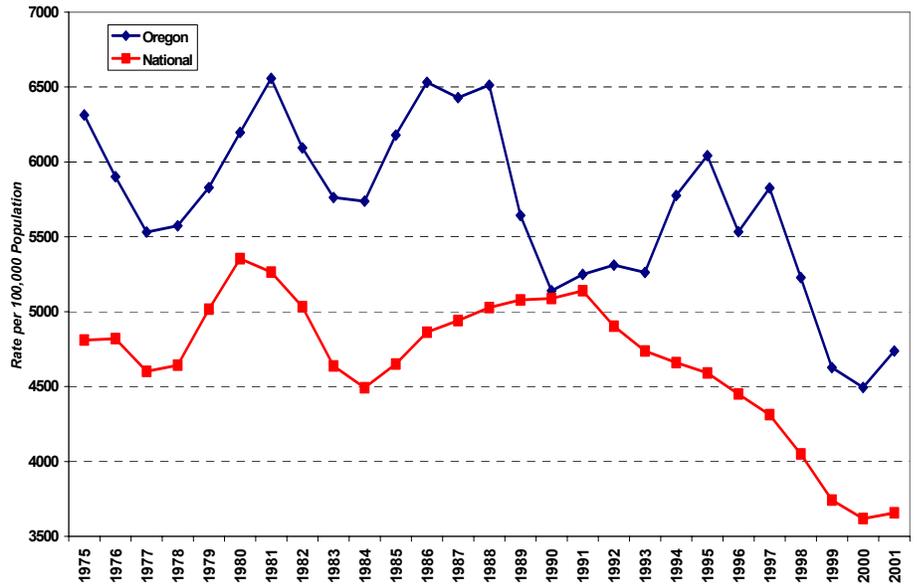
Larceny-theft also comprises the largest share of Oregon's property index crime. Its relative share grew from 63 to 75 percent of all property index crime between 1975 and 2001. Burglary's share fell from 30 to 16 percent during the same period.

⁵ Definitions of these crimes appear in the appendix.

⁶ Arson was added to the index in 1979. Arsons are relatively infrequent, and they are omitted here for continuity.

Figure 15 shows that Oregon's property crime rate is consistently above the nation's, and Oregon's rate has been more volatile. Oregon trended with the nation until 1989. Oregon's rate dropped sharply in 1989 and 1990 while the national rate was slightly increasing. The nation's property crime rate declined from 1992 through 2000. The nation's rate

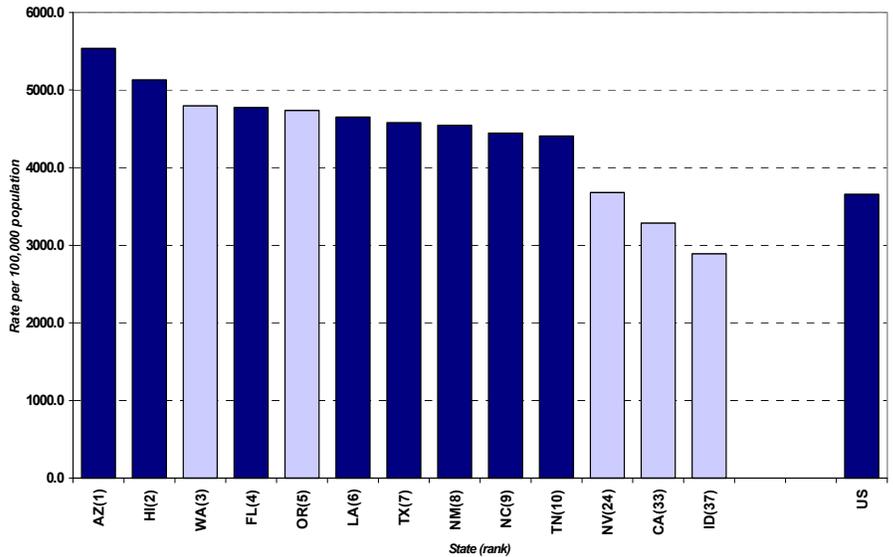
Figure 15: Property Index Crime Rates



increased in 2001, the first time in ten years. Oregon's rate has declined for four of the last six years. Even though Oregon's and the nation's rates increased in 2001, they were still near their lowest levels of the past 27 years.

Figure 16 compares Oregon's rate with other states'. In 2001, Washington had the third highest rate in the nation, and Oregon had the fifth highest. Nevada's rate was slightly higher than the nation's.

**Figure 16: Property Index Crime Rates, 2001
Top 10 States, Oregon and its Neighbors**



Oregon's high property index crime rates could be partly due to a higher reporting rate. Oregon has not completed its own victimization survey since 1989, but we can compare Portland's burglary reporting as an indicator. Portland

residents reported 66 percent of residential burglaries in 1999⁷, compared to 49.3 percent nationwide⁸.

a. Burglary

Burglary is considered the most serious property crime. It accounted for one-fifth of the nation's reported property index crime in 2001. Figure 17 shows that the nation's burglary rate has been falling since 1980. Oregon's rate underwent a precipitous drop in 1989 and 1990 and has hovered around the national average ever since.

Figure 17: Burglary Rates

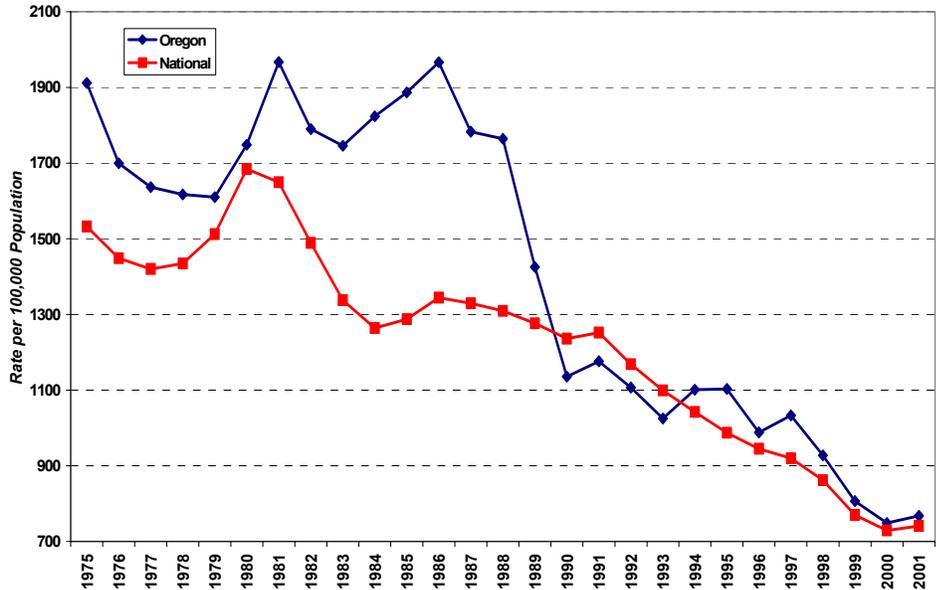
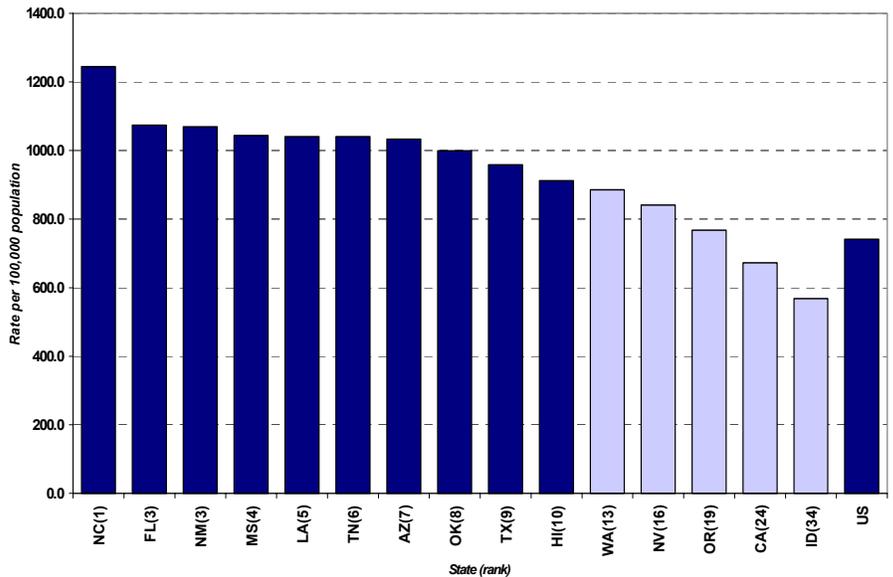


Figure 18 shows that in 2001, neither Oregon nor its neighbors ranked among the top ten states in terms of burglary rate. Washington's, Nevada's, and Oregon's rates were above the national average, while California's and Idaho's were below.

**Figure 18: Burglary Rates, 2001
Top 10 States, Oregon and its Neighbors**



Oregon's burglary rate declined by one-third between 1988 and

⁷"City of Portland Service Efforts and Accomplishments: 2000-01," City of Portland Auditor's Office, December 2001, p. A-7.

⁸ *Criminal Victimization 1999; Changes 1998-99 with Trend 1993-1999*, U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, August 2000, p. 11.

1990. Declines were posted in most of Oregon's counties, but the eight most populous accounted for three-quarters of the decline.

At the time, residential burglary was a major crime concern. Police departments and citizens took an active role in crime prevention. Some of the steps taken included improving residential locks, starting neighborhood watches, and changing landscaping and lighting. Security companies expanded and home security systems became more common.

There also *may* have been a decline in burglary reporting. The Oregon Department of Justice conducted a statewide crime victimization survey in 1988. That study showed that the percentage of burglary victims reporting the crime to police fell from 68 to 52 percent between 1987 and 1988⁹. The decline in burglaries may have been a combination of fewer burglaries and less reporting.

After the precipitous decline during 1989 and 1990, the burglary rate has continued to decline in Oregon and the nation. In recent years, other opportunities have developed for property criminals. For the criminal, burglary is risky and carries more severe penalties than other property crimes. Burglary usually involves stealing property that must be converted into cash. With less risk, thieves can obtain cash directly through check and credit card fraud made possible by identity theft. A household protected by an advanced security system could still be victimized by the theft of mail, un-shredded recycling material, or computerized information.

⁹ Oregon Department of Justice, Crime Analysis Center, Oregon Serious Crime Survey, 1989.

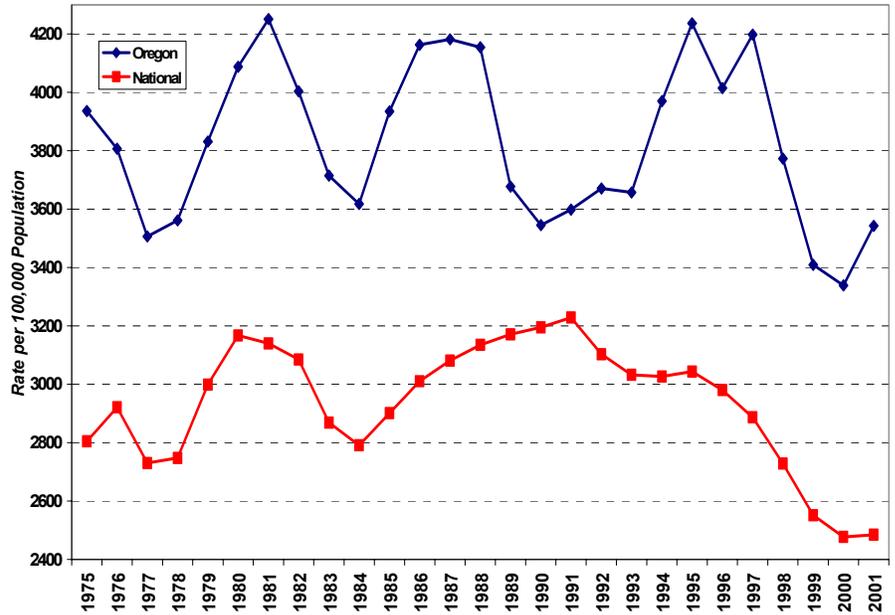
b. Larceny-Theft

Larceny-theft is the most frequently reported index crime. As noted in Figure 14, page 13, its relative share of the nation's property index crime has grown since 1975, while burglary's share has declined. This trend has also occurred in Oregon.

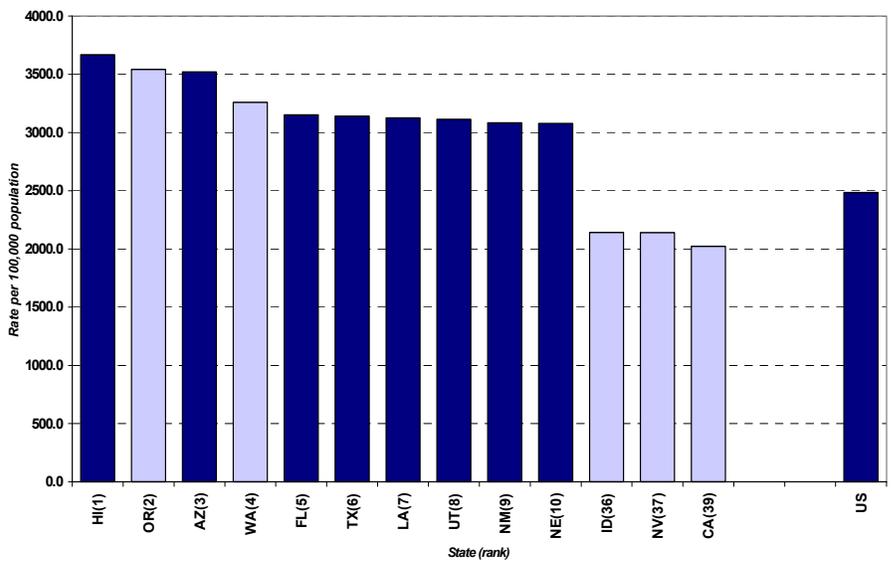
Figure 19 shows that Oregon's larceny rates were well above the nation's for the entire period. Until recently, the rates for Oregon and the nation hovered around a stable mean. Since 1999, the national rate has been at its lowest levels in the 27-year period. Oregon's rate reached similar lows in 1999 and 2000 before increasing in 2001.

Figure 20 compares Oregon's larceny rate to other states'. In 2001, Oregon and Washington had the second and fourth highest rates in the nation. Oregon's other neighbors had rates lower than the national average.

Figure 19: Larceny-Theft Rates



**Figure 20: Larceny-Theft Rates, 2001
Top 10 States, Oregon and its Neighbors**



c. Motor Vehicle Theft

Motor vehicle theft typically accounts for 10 to 11 percent of the nation's property index crime. In Oregon, it accounted for 9 percent of property index crime reported in 2001.

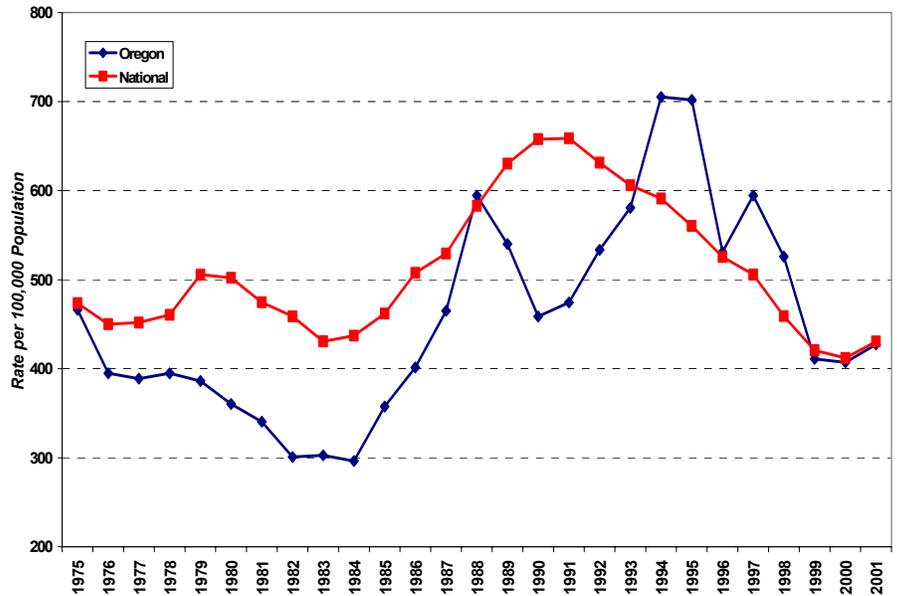
Figure 21 shows that Oregon's rate trended with the nation's until 1989. Oregon's rate moved in the opposite direction from the nation's between 1989 and 1994. Oregon's rate began falling in 1996 and has been very close to the nation's since 1999.

Figure 22 compares Oregon's motor vehicle theft rate to other states'. The western states have high rates of motor vehicle theft. Nevada, Washington, and California had the nation's second, third, and fifth highest rates in 2001. Oregon's rate was near the national average. Only Idaho's rate was substantially below the national average.

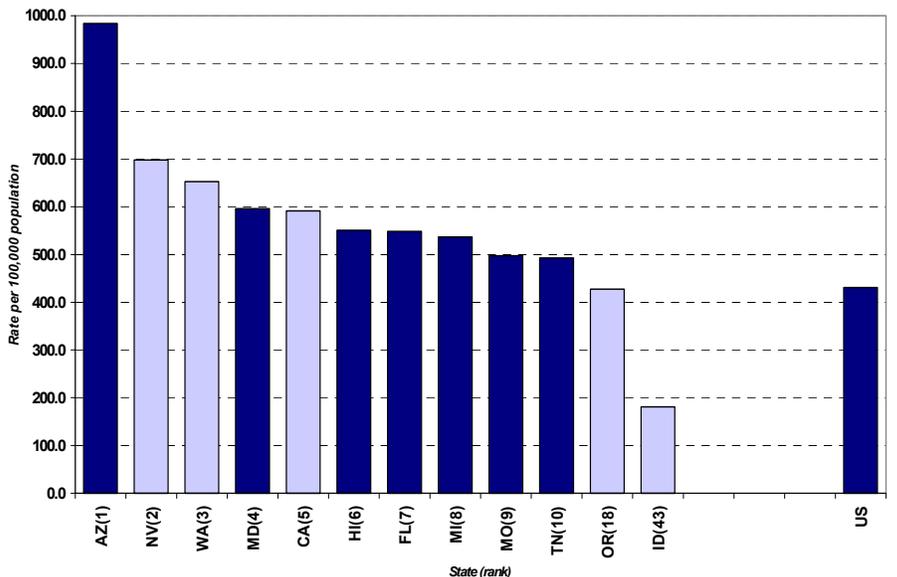
d. Conclusion

The national property index crime rate rose every year between 1985 and 1991, then fell every year from 1992 to 2000. Larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft fueled the increase, and all property index crimes contributed to the decline in the

Figure 21: Motor Vehicle Theft Rates



**Figure 22: Motor Vehicle Theft Rates, 2001
Top 10 States, Oregon and its Neighbors**



1990s. The property index crime rate increased in 2001 for the first time in ten years. All three types of index property crimes contributed to this growth.

Oregon's property index crime rate trended with the nation's until 1989. In the early and mid-1990s, Oregon's property index crime rate increased when national rate decreased. Since 1998, Oregon's rates have again trended with the nation, declining for three years before increasing again in 2001.

Reported burglary rates have declined substantially in Oregon and the nation over the past 15 to 20 years. The decline may have been driven both by a decrease in reporting and an actual decrease in the number of burglaries.

6. Oregon's Ranking Among the States 1975-2001

This section examines the factors behind Oregon's historical ranking among the states. Oregon has had one of the ten highest index crime rates in the nation for 21 of the 27 years covered in this report (Table 2). The larceny-theft rate has been a driving factor in each of those years. Oregon had one of the nation's ten highest larceny-theft rates in every year since 1975, with the exception of 1990 and 1991.

In some years, high rates for other property crimes also boosted Oregon's overall ranking. Oregon's burglary rate was among the ten highest in the nation every year from 1975 through 1989 except for 1980, when Oregon ranked eleventh. In 1994 and 1995, Oregon's motor vehicle theft rates were the seventh and sixth highest in the nation, respectively.

Table 2: Oregon's Total Index Crime Rate and Rank Among the 50 States

Year	Rate	Rank	Year	Rate	Rank
1975	6752.2	6	1989	6161.1	12
1976	6358.8	7	1990	5646.0	18
1977	5987.2	9	1991	5755.1	19
1978	6075.4	9	1992	5820.9	15
1979	6373.0	9	1993	5765.6	13
1980	6686.9	10	1994	6296.4	6
1981	7036.9	6	1995	6563.9	6
1982	6567.5	9	1996	5996.6	9
1983	6250.9	8	1997	6269.8	5
1984	6243.7	7	1998	5646.6	7
1985	6729.8	4	1999	5002.0	10
1986	7080.7	4	2000	4845.4	11
1987	6969.0	5	2001	5044.1	9
1988	7058.7	5			

7. Crime in Oregon's Geographic Regions

This section compares reported index crime in various regions of Oregon. County-level crime data are available through 2000. The counties were divided into these regions:

<i>Eastern</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Southern</i>	<i>Coastal</i>	<i>Valley</i>	<i>Metro</i>
BAKER	CROOK	DOUGLAS	CLATSOP	BENTON	MULTNOMAH
GILLIAM	DESCHUTES	JACKSON	COLUMBIA	POLK	WASHINGTON
GRANT	HOOD RIVER	JOSEPHINE	LINCOLN	LANE	CLACKAMAS
HARNEY	JEFFERSON		TILLAMOOK	LINN	
MALHEUR	KLAMATH		COOS	MARION	
MORROW	LAKE		CURRY	YAMHILL	
UMATILLA	SHERMAN				
UNION	WASCO				
WALLOWA					
WHEELER					

The counties were grouped by economic and demographic characteristics and location. The 2000 Census population of each region is shown at right.

Figure 23 compares the regions according to their violent index crime rates. The chart shows that the Metro area's violent index crime rate is typically two to three times higher than other areas.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Percent of State Total</i>
Eastern	180,661	5.3%
Central	270,891	7.9%
Southern	357,394	10.4%
Coastal	231,847	6.8%
Valley	936,387	27.4%
Metro	1,444,219	42.2%
	3,421,399	100.0%

The 2000 violent index crime rate in the Metro area was much lower than at its 1985 peak. After dropping in the late 1980s, the Metro area's rate increased slightly in the early and mid-1990s, then dropped sharply in the late 1990s. Most other areas of the state also had a rate increase in the mid-1990s and a decrease in the late 1990s.

Figure 24 compares the regions according to their property index crime rates. These crimes are more geographically dispersed than are violent index crimes.

The Metro area had a far higher rate than other areas until 1990. After the Portland area's rate fell, the rate rose in the Valley and Southern areas. The 2000 property crime rate in the Valley was equal to the rate in the Portland area.

Figure 23: Violent Index Crime Rates

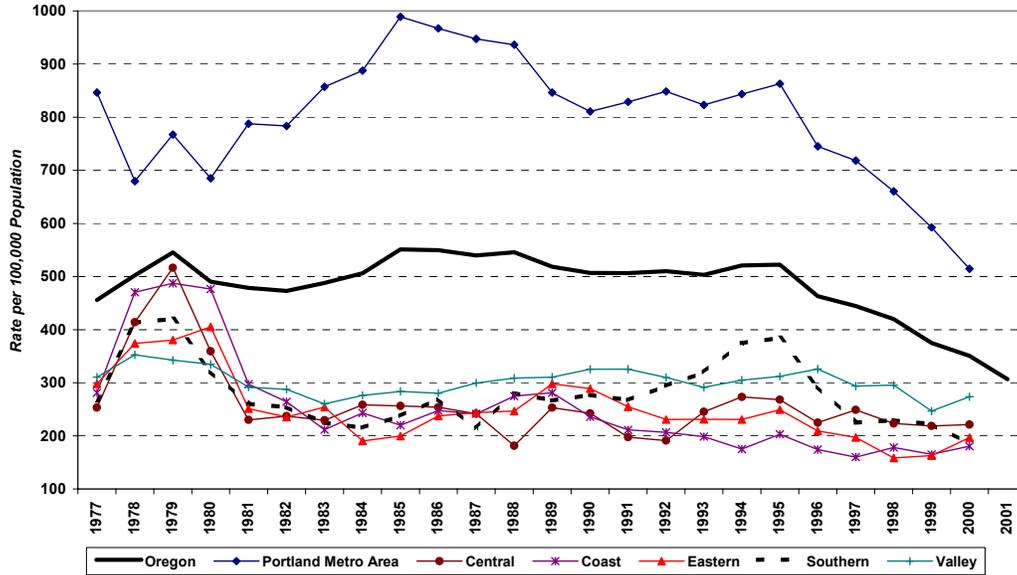
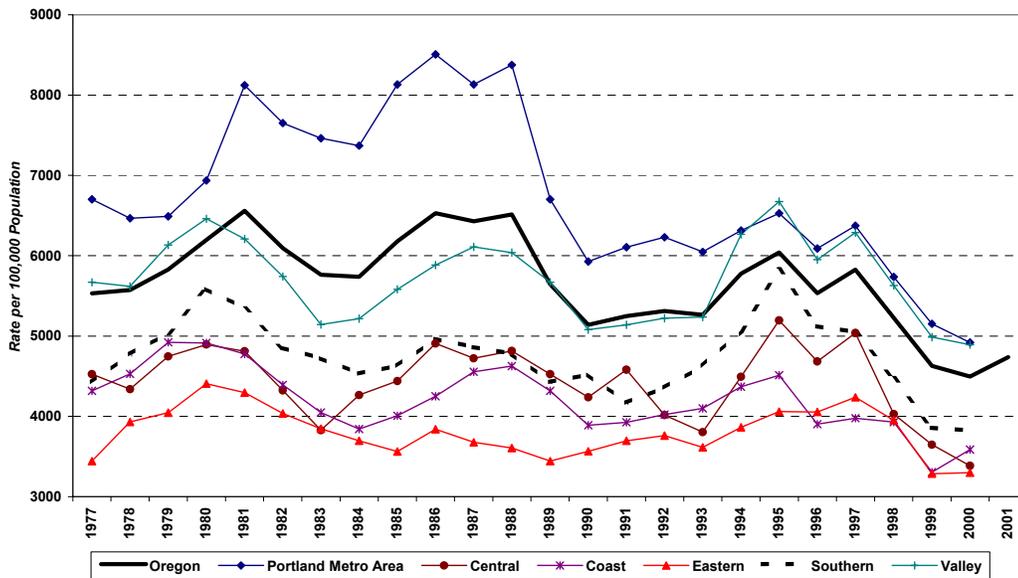


Figure 24: Property Index Crime Rates



Appendix: Index Crime Definitions

Violent offenses

- **Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter** — the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another. Deaths caused by negligence, attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, and accidental deaths are excluded. Justifiable homicides are classified separately.
- **Forcible rape** — The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Rapes by force and attempts or assaults to rape regardless of the age of the victim are included. Statutory offenses (no force used — victim under age of consent) are excluded.
- **Robbery** — The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.
- **Aggravated assault** — An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Simple assaults are excluded.

Property offenses

- **Burglary - breaking or entering** — The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft. Attempted forcible entry is included.
- **Larceny-theft** (except motor vehicle theft) — The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Examples are thefts of bicycles or automobile accessories, shoplifting, pocket-picking, or the stealing of any property or article which is not taken by force and violence or by fraud. Attempted larcenies are included. Embezzlement, confidence games, forgery, worthless checks, etc., are excluded.
- **Motor vehicle theft** — The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. A motor vehicle is self-propelled and runs on the surface and not on rails. Motorboats, construction equipment, airplanes, and farming equipment are specifically excluded from this category.
- **Arson**¹⁰ — Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program

¹⁰ Arson, added as an index offense in 1979, is not included in data presented.

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